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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA No. 23 NSC-1

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Kennedy-Khrushchev Meeting. The first Soviet editorial comment on the Vienna meeting was given in Pravda (June 7). The editorial conveyed the general impression that the talks had initiated a more hopeful phase of US-Soviet relations, but gave no indication that the two sides had come any closer to agreement on major issues. The US was urged to pursue a peaceful course, and the cautionary note was sounded that only the future would show if the Vienna meeting would be followed by the necessary concrete actions. Pravda claimed that the mere fact that the two leaders had met confirmed the vitality of the idea of businesslike contacts and frank discussions. It took the credit for the USSR and Khrushchev that the meeting had come about, despite, as it said, the threatening situations that had developed in the last months in Cuba, Laos, Algeria, and as a result of NATO saber-rattling. The whole onus for the future was put on the US. The new administration, Pravda stated, had had the opportunity of seeing since it came into office which actions met with world support and which led to a fall in US prestige.

Soviet press accounts on Secretary Rusk's stopover in Paris on his return from Vienna painted a gloomier picture. The Secretary was said not to have had as his objective the creation of an easier international climate, and to have tried to give the impression that after Vienna all remained as before. In particular, he was described as taking a pessimistic view on Berlin and raising the possibility of a serious crisis there before the end of the year.

2. Laos. The Geneva Conference on Laos was linked with the Vienna meeting in Soviet propaganda. Both before and after the latter the Soviet press implied that it would have the effect of moving the Conference at Geneva closer toward agreement, with the underlying assumption being that agreement would have to come about through Western concessions.

En route to Geneva, Souvanna Phouma and Souphanuvong visited Moscow and consulted with Soviet leaders who presumably briefed them on the Vienna meeting and advised them what position to take at Geneva. At least Souvanna said that the information Khrushchev provided him about Vienna would enable him and his brother to map out the course of action at Geneva. Souvanna's speech in Moscow and those of Soviet leaders do not give a clue as to what concessions, if any, the communists might make at Geneva on the question of a verifiable cease-fire.

3. Berlin. On the eve of the Vienna meeting, a Pravda "Observer" article discussed the Berlin problem, apparently in response to the publication in the Western press of articles on Western contingency planning. "Observer" condemned as military plans concerning Berlin provocations having nothing in common with the purposes of the Vienna meeting, and warned that the USSR would not tolerate such a course. While contending that the solution of the German problem can no longer be delayed, the article gave no indication that the Soviets are contemplating an immediate attempt at unilateral action on Berlin.

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The Western reply to the Soviet note of April 15 [redacted]

The Soviet press briefly noted FRG President Luebke's Berlin visit, describing it as a deliberate provocation to impede East-West mutual understanding after the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting. Luebke's exercise of functions in the city was said to be an unworthy farce outside his rightful territorial jurisdiction.

4. Near and Middle East: The reported death in a Damascus prison of the Lebanese Communist leader, Farajallah al-Hilu, gave new impetus to the prevailing unfavorable Soviet press treatment of UAR internal affairs. Besides the front-page publication in Pravda (June 6) of the CPSU message of condolence to the Lebanese CP, the press carried texts of various statements and appeals, including one by the International Committee for the Freedom of al-Hilu which stated that his death was the same kind of bestial fascist crime as Lumumba's murder. The Soviet press has not given any further inkling of anti-Soviet reactions in the UAR (or Iraq) since the May 31 Pravda "Observer" article on the Cairo press.

The latest issue (No. 6, 1961) of the bloc journal, Problems of Peace and Socialism, carried an article giving a whole catalogue of repressive measures taken by the Iraqi government against "patriots" and "democrats." Most of the charges had appeared previously in the Soviet press and journals, but not with the same clear identification of Kassem as being directly responsible for the repression.

Iranian developments received only brief mention in the Soviet press. While there was no direct criticism of Amini, the general picture conveyed was of growing popular discontent (strikes in the cities and peasant uprisings in Azerbaijan), and increasing pressure for a neutralist Iranian foreign policy and withdrawal from CENTO. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

5. Visits by Sukarno and Nasution: President Sukarno arrived in Moscow June 5 and began the usual routine for state guests of the USSR including Kremlin luncheons, receptions, attendance at the ballet--all in the company of senior officials of the Soviet Government, in this case including Khrushchev. As his visit to the USSR coincided with Sukarno's 60th birthday, much was made of this event by the Soviet press and presumably by Soviet officials who are dealing with Sukarno as his hosts. Sukarno has responded with some statements in his publicized speeches which go to great length in agreeing with the Soviet propaganda line that the greatest threat in under-developed countries comes from "neo-colonialism." Although Sukarno did not mention have
and indeed may not intended this to mean the US, it certainly will be accepted as such by communists and will be so exploited.

General Naustion arrived in Moscow on June 7 and his visit is apparently being kept apart from that of President Sukarno. In the first few days of his sojourn, according to press accounts, he has been entertained by high Soviet military officials and has visited military installations. In contrast to Sukarno, Nasution's publicized statements have been reserved.

6. Visits. The June 6 arrival in Iceland of Soviet Minister of Culture (and CPSU Presidium member) Furtseva was followed in the next day's Trud, the trade union central organ, by an infrequent instance of Soviet press criticism of the Icelandic government. Trud blamed the Thors government for attacks on workers' living standards (which, it said, had led to the current strike), and for the decline of Icelandic trade with the bloc.

A Nigerian economic delegation headed by Finance Minister Okotie-Ebo began discussions with the Soviets in Moscow June 6.

Somali premier Abdirascid left the USSR June 2. The language of the final communique was considerably more cautious than some of the premier's effusively pro-Soviet statements, as reported in the Soviet press. It contained expressions of Somali endoraement of the Soviet positions on disarmament and colonialism but did not, for example, yield to Moscow on the question of UN reorganization. The principal item in the Soviet aid package was a 40-million ruble long-term loan. [(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)]

INTERNAL — POLITICAL

7. Leadership. During a week crowded with news of the top leadership the "popularity" of N.S.Khrushchev was played up and the Soviet image of him as a "statesman" received much positive impetus. In connection with publicizing his protracted trip to Vienna via Kiev and Czechoslovakia a TV chronical was shown on June 1 of "N.S.Khrushchev in the Carpathians enroute to Vienna," and on June 4, a new documentary film was announced called "Our Nikita Sergeyevich" which apparently shows Khrushchev's "many-sided activities" including some scenes from the pre-war period. Lending the Khrushchev "cult" additional luster, on every day during the past week most of the central press carried a large picture (sometimes two) of his activities. Typically, during the June 3-4 meeting these pictures almost never revealed the disparity in height between the President and Khrushchev. In contrast to western accounts of their meeting, the Soviet press attributed the re-enacted Khrushchev-Kennedy handshake (performed for the benefit of the press cameramen) to Khrushchev's geniality and initiative rather than that of the President.

Resident Moscow Presidium figures turned out en masse for the third time on June 5 to greet Khrushchev upon his return. They had gathered twice earlier in the week in connection with funeral rites for M.V.Khrunichev, the Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Co-ordination of Scientific Research who died during Khrushchev's absence from Moscow. Their number included even F. R. Kozlov who had not been seen in public for the last six weeks due to convalescence following a heart attack.

By attending four publicized protocol functions during the next three days, and looking rested and perhaps somewhat heavier than usual, Kozlov gave the impression that he had returned to a full schedule.

Madam Furtseva was off visiting Reykjavik at the invitation of Iceland's Minister of Culture accompanied by the head of the Scandinavian Section of the Foreign Ministry. She stopped enroute for a few days in Copenhagen. The CPSU delegation to North Korea, headed by Presidium Member N.G.Ignatov returned on June 7 after an eight da visit. Three Presidium figures, Deputy Chairman of the CC Bureau for th SFSR G. I. Voronov, RSFSR Premier D. S. Polyanskiy and N.G. Ignatov (who is also chairman of the State Committee of Agricultural Procurement) occupied themselves during the week with further provincial meetings connected with attaining agricultural goals. They attended (separately) various oblast meetings of party activities at Tula, Yaroslavl', Moscow, Kostromskiy and Kursk Oblasts.

8. Scheduling of Republic Party Congresses. At a June 6 plenum of the CC of Kazakhstan it was announced that the XI Kazakhstan Party Congress would open September 27. According to Embassy records, all republics (except Belorussia for which there is no record) now have scheduled congresses to convene during the month of September. The Congresses will elect new Republic Central Committees, delegates to the October 17 XXII CPSU Congress, and discuss the new party program and statutes. Like Kazakhstan, five republics, Georgia, Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Moldavia will open their congresses on September 27. Other dates scheduled in September are: Latvia (26th), Uzbekistan (25th), Tadzhikistan (21st), Armenia (21st), Kirgizia (19th), Turkmenistan (12th), and Azerbaydzhan (6th).

9. No Successor Yet Announced for Khrunichev. By June 7 no announcement had yet been made designating a successor to replace M. V. Khrunichev, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Coordination of Scientific Research. Khrunichev died suddenly of a heart attack during the night of June 1-2 during Khrushchev's absence in Vienna and was burried with full honors the next day in the Kremlin wall behind the mausoleum. Since 1938 he had held key positions in Soviet defense industries and had helped serve the Soviet Union as an organizer of its scientific-economic capacity.

Delay in naming a successor may indicate difficulty in finding the right man to entrust with the coordinating duties of this committee (which was founded only two months ago.) At the time of his death, Khrunichev undoubtedly was deeply involved in setting up the committee apparatus and with many other changes affecting research in science and industry which now is in a state of flux in the Soviet Union. Reorganization of the Academy of Science was a part of these changes, consequently, postponement of the Moscow conference of scientific workers in Moscow (now scheduled for June 12-14) would not be surprising if a successor is not named by then.
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MILITARY

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10. AIR. Increased air activity in Moscow area during past ten days has included fly-by of military transport with paradrops, medium and heavy bombers, fighters including late supersonic models, and helicopter, as well as most type of Aeroflot airliners. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge d'Affaires.

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